

**Wednesday,
March 16**

Optional Tours (Additional Cost)

11:30 a.m.
to
3:30 p.m.

Piedmont Improvement Program Train Tour

Ride the Amtrak train to High Point, NC and back with Jason Orthner of NCDOT, who will present the projects along the route associated with the Piedmont Improvement Program.

Speaker: Jason Orthner, Manager, Design and Construction, NCDOT Rail Division

Charlotte LYNX Blue Rail Tour

1:00 p.m.
to
3:30 p.m.

Take a trip down the LYNX Blue Line, North Carolina's first light rail system. The tour will visit a series of stops along the Blue Line alignment, highlighting development projects that have occurred along the line. The tour will then board a CATS bus to view current construction of the extension of the LYNX Blue Line and highlight key development projects that are planned along the future alignment, referred to as the BLE (Blue Line Extension).

Speakers: Tina Vatow & Hillary Ryan, CATS

Welcome Reception at NASCAR Hall of Fame

6:30 p.m.
to
8:30 p.m.

Join us at the starting line of the Southeast Rail Forum with a cocktail social and hors d'oeuvres at the NASCAR Hall of Fame. Explore NASCAR History and engage in interactive content.

Sponsored by:



Thursday, March 17	
<p>8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Opening Session</u></p> <p>Welcome and Opening Address</p> <p><i>Welcome and address of national, state, and local officials on important next steps and initiatives to implement an enhanced rail system to meet the rapidly rising demands of the growing population and industry.</i></p> <p><u>Confirmed Speakers:</u> Jennifer Roberts, Mayor, City of Charlotte Nicholas Tennyson, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Transportation Bob Morgan, President and CEO, Charlotte Chamber of Commerce</p>
<p>10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>General Session</u></p> <p>Planning for Change - Current Projects and Initiatives</p> <p><i>During this session, each state will share ongoing rail initiatives and opportunities. Challenges and successes will be highlighted.</i></p> <p><u>Confirmed Speakers:</u> Randy Brown, Project Manager, Southeast High Speed Rail, Federal Railroad Administration Paul Worley, Director, North Carolina Department of Transportation Rail Division Jennifer Mitchell, Director, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation Doug Frate, Director of Intermodal & Freight Programs, South Carolina Department of Transportation Carol Comer, Director of Intermodal Division, Georgia Department of Transportation</p>

12:00 p.m.
to
1:00 p.m.

Lunch



Keynote Speaker – Corey Hill, Executive Director of the Federal Railroad Administration

Mr. Hill serves as a member of FRA's executive leadership team providing expert advice and guidance to the Associate Administrator for Railroad Policy and Development, Executive Director, Deputy Administrator, Administrator and Office of the Secretary of Transportation on policy matters impacting intercity passenger and freight rail programs.

Mr. Hill manages approximately \$23 billion in investments (400+ projects ranging from multibillion to under one million) through 17 grant and loan programs including: High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail, Amtrak, TIGER, Rail Line Relocation, Disaster Assistance, and the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing program.

1:00 p.m.
to
1:30 p.m.

Special Address



Anthony Foxx, U.S. Secretary of Transportation

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx will highlight what steps are necessary to move forward and build a stronger passenger and freight rail network for the Southeast Corridor. DOT's [Beyond Traffic](#) study found that the Southeast is one of the fast-growing regions in the nation. Significant investment in infrastructure, especially passenger and freight rail, will be required for the region to grow and thrive.

Breakout Sessions

2:00 p.m.
to
3:30 p.m.

Session A – Freight, Intermodal and Port Needs

Speakers from Class I railroads, short lines, and regional ports will discuss strategies and initiatives to address growing freight, intermodal, and port needs.

Confirmed Speakers:

Greg Fennell, Chief Commercial Office, North Carolina State Ports Authority
Micah Mallace, Manager of Strategic Projects, South Carolina Ports Authority
Grant Cothran, Manager of Intermodal Development, Norfolk Southern
Patrick McCorry, Vice President, Palmetto Railway
Carl Warren, Director of Industrial Development, CSX

Session B – FRA-Led Regional Planning Study and CONNECT Model

The Federal Railroad Administration is getting ready to kick-off the Federally-Led Regional Planning Study for the Southeast. The study is intended to serve as a regional evaluation of passenger transportation needs and will identify corridors for rail investments. The session will present the general scope of the study and provide panelists an opportunity to provide their suggestions and input.

Confirmed Speakers:

Paul Worley, Director, North Carolina Department of Transportation Rail Division
Emily Stock, Manager of Rail Planning, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
Carol Comer, Director of Intermodal Division, Georgia Department of Transportation
Kyle Gradinger, Lead Planner Environmental & Corridor Planning Division, Federal Railroad Administration
Jay McArthur, Senior Manager State Supported Corridors, Amtrak

Session C – Rail Safety Initiatives

This session includes presentations of current safety initiatives by representatives of Operation Lifesaver, state Departments of Transportation, and the Federal Railroad Administration.

Confirmed Speakers:

Janice Cowen, State Coordinator, South Carolina Operation Lifesaver
Margaret Cannell, State Coordinator, North Carolina Operation Lifesaver
Jahmal Pullen, Engineering Coordination & Safety Branch Manager, North Carolina Department of Transportation
Gregory Drakulic, Railroad Safety Specialist, Federal Railroad Administration
Andy Foster, Deputy Regional Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration

Breakout Sessions

4:00 p.m.
to
5:30 p.m.

Session A – Funding and Governance

Addressing the transportation needs in the Southeast will require the planning, funding, finance, and implementation of large multi-state projects. This session will explore potential governance models, including, but not limited to the existing VA-NC Interstate High Speed Rail Compact and the Appalachian Regional Commission. The session will also discuss funding and financing models that could be used.

Confirmed Speakers and Panelists:

Rep. William Brawley, Vice-Chair Appropriations Committee, NC General Assembly
Corey Hill, Executive Director, Federal Railroad Administration
Earl Gohl, Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission
David Horner, Partner, Hunton and Williams
David Carol, Market Leader for High-Speed Rail, WSP | PB
Dolly Mirchandani, Partner, Allen & Overy
Jennifer Mitchell, Director, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Session B – Future of Railroads - Trends, Policies, and Planning

This session will explore a variety of trends, policies, and planning issues that influence rail transportation needs and services in the Southeast.

Confirmed Speakers:

Pete Burrus, Chief of Rail, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
Ken Altman, Director of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs, Amtrak
Barry Hall, Director of Strategic Initiatives, CSX

Session C – Rail Benefits, Impacts, and Needs at the Local Level

This session will explore both realized and planned benefits of both freight and passenger rail projects.

Confirmed Speakers:

Jim Westmoreland, City Manager, City of Greensboro
Ned Curran, Chairman, NCDOT Board of Transportation
Rick Jones, Planning Director, City of Columbus, Georgia
Rick Danner, Mayor of Greer, South Carolina
Toni Horst, Senior Consulting Manager, AECOM

<p>8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>General Session</u></p> <p>Economic Impact of Rail for a Growing Megaregion and</p> <p><i>Demands on the passenger and freight network are increasing throughout the Southeast Region. The Northeast Corridor serves as an example of how passenger rail can be an important resource and economic driver for a region. Other presentations are anticipated to include a discussion of rail network resiliency needs as demonstrated by South Carolina flooding recovery efforts.</i></p> <p><u>Confirmed Speakers:</u> David Carol, Market Leader for High-Speed Rail, WSP PB Toni Horst, Senior Consulting Manager, AECOM</p> <p>The Need for Predictable and Reliable Rail Funding – Vendor and Supplier Perspectives</p> <p><i>This panel discussion will explore the challenges that come with having unpredictable, long-term funding strategies in place.</i></p> <p><u>Confirmed Speakers:</u> Anne Canby, President/CEO, OneRail Steven Morrison, Amtrak Account Manager for Siemens Industry, Inc., Mobility Division</p>
<p>10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Closing Remarks</u></p> <p>Preparing for Success</p> <p><u>Confirmed Speakers:</u> Paul Worley, Director, North Carolina Department of Transportation Rail Division</p>

***The schedule is subject to change**